

### Section 3 – External Auditor Report and Certificate 2019/20

In respect of

Haughton Parish Council

#### 1 Respective responsibilities of the body and the auditor

This authority is responsible for ensuring that its financial management is adequate and effective and that it has a sound system of internal control. The authority prepares an Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with *Proper Practices* which:

- summarises the accounting records for the year ended 31 March 2020; and
- confirms and provides assurance on those matters that are relevant to our duties and responsibilities as external auditors.

Our responsibility is to review Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return in accordance with guidance issued by the National Audit Office (NAO) on behalf of the Comptroller and Auditor General see note below. Our work **does not** constitute an audit carried out in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK & Ireland) and **does not** provide the same level of assurance that such an audit would do.

#### 2 External auditor report 2019/20

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

Other matters not affecting our opinion which we draw to the attention of the authority:

Not applicable

#### 3 External auditor certificate 2019/20

We certify that we have completed our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return, and discharged our responsibilities under the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, for the year ended 31 March 2020.

\*We do not certify completion because:

Not applicable

External Auditor Name

Mazars LLP, Durham, DH1 5TS

External Auditor Signature

Mazars LLP

Date

2 October 2020

\*Note: the NAO issued guidance applicable to external auditors' work on limited assurance reviews in Auditor Guidance Note AGN/02. The AGN is available from the NAO website ([www.nao.org.uk](http://www.nao.org.uk))

(NAME): Houghton Parish Council

**Notice of conclusion of the audit**  
**Annual Return for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

Section 25 of the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014  
Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2015

<p>1. The audit of accounts for the Council/Meeting (a) for the year ended 31 March 2020 has been concluded.</p> <p>2. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return is available for inspection by any local government elector of the area of the Council /Meeting (a) on application to:</p> <p>(b) <u>Mrs Susan Athling (Clerk)</u> <u>8 Iveton Close Houghton Raton</u> <u>01785 840845</u></p> <p>2. Copies will be provided to any local government elector on payment of £ <u>0</u> (c) for each copy of the Annual Return.</p> <p>Announcement made by: (d) <u>Susan Athling</u></p> <p>Date of announcement: (e) <u>12/10/20</u></p>	<p>Notes</p> <p>(a) Delete as appropriate</p> <p>(b) Insert name, position and address of the person to whom local government electors should apply to inspect the Annual Return</p> <p>(c) Insert a reasonable sum for copying costs</p> <p>(d) Insert name and position of person placing the notice</p> <p>(e) Insert date of placing of the notice</p>
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